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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 002715

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OTRA](#) [NL](#) [BK](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE: U.S. DELEGATION TO BOSNIA WAR
CRIMES COURT DONORS CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 299243

1. (U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. (U) Post warmly welcomes and grants country clearance to the U.S. Delegation attending the October 30, 2003 donors conference for the Bosnia War Crimes court. This delegation includes Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Pierre-Richard Prosper, Director of SEED Assistance Programs for Southeast Europe James M. Roberts, EUR/SCE Deputy Director for Bosnia Raffi Gregorian, Human Rights/Rule of Law Officer for Southeast Europe Jennifer Mitchell, Embassy Sarajevo Rule of Law Officer Richard Prosen, and Rajika Shah of S/WCI.

3. (U) Control Officer for this visit will be Legal Counselor Clifton M. Johnson, who may be reached at (31) (70) 310 9378 (Office) or (31) (70) 517 8861 (Home) or (31) 61 280 8049 (Mobile). Reservations for two nights, arriving October 29, 2003, (or three nights, in the case of Ms. Shah) have been made in the names of Mr. J. Roberts, Mr. R. Gergorian, Ms. J. Mitchell and Mr. R. Prosen at the following hotel:

Sofitel Den Haag
Koningin Julianaplein 35
2595 AA The Hague
Phone: (31) (70) 347 1827
Fax: (31) (70) 382 5927

The hotel is easily accessible from Schipol Airport via train to Den Haag Centraal (to which the hotel is adjacent) or via taxi. Room rate is Euro 115.00 per night, plus mandatory city tax of Euro 4.32 per person per night. Breakfast is available for Euro 18.50 per person.

4. (SBU) POST ACCESS: Visitors who need unescorted access into secure areas of the Mission must provide proof of at least a secret clearance. Requesting cable did include such information for all but one traveler, who we understand will be forwarding clearance and itinerary in a septel, and appropriate access requests will be completed prior to the group's arrival.

5. (SBU) COMPUTER and ELECTRONICS USAGE: Inter-agency security standards prohibit the introduction or use of non-USG owned computer hardware and software at all USG diplomatic facilities. Cell phones, palm pilots, radios and other convenience electronics are prohibited in all secure areas of the Mission. Travelers who anticipate having special needs in terms of either access or computer usage should contact the RSO office before arriving at post.

6. (SBU) SECURITY ADVISORY: Post provides the following threat assessment for The Netherlands: The Department of State on July 29, 2003 issued a worldwide caution to alert Americans of the need to remain vigilant. The Department of State reminds U.S. citizens of the continuing threat of terrorist actions that may target U.S. citizens and to update these potential threats. The U.S. Government remains deeply concerned about the security of U.S. citizens overseas. U.S. citizens are cautioned to maintain a high level of vigilance, to remain alert and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

-- (SBU) Tensions remaining from the recent events in Iraq may increase the potential threat to U.S. citizens and interests abroad, by terrorist and other groups. Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings. These may also involve commercial aircraft. Other potential threats include conventional weapons, such as explosive devices, or non-conventional weapons, such as chemical or biological agents. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. These may include facilities where American citizens and other foreigners congregate or visit, including residential areas, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, outdoor recreation events or resorts and beaches. U.S. citizens should remain in a heightened state of personal security awareness when attendance at such locations is unavoidable. Please consult the Department's web site for text: <http://travel.state.gov>. In light of this caution, all visitors to the Netherlands are encouraged to assess their security posture and be alert to their surroundings for possible surveillance. All visitors should exercise caution while traveling abroad, as U.S. citizens and facilities are often the target of groups

demonstrating opposition to U.S. foreign policy.

-- (U) A concern for visitors is crime. Most crimes against official Americans are limited to pick-pocketing and luggage theft. Vandalism to and theft from automobiles and hotel rooms are not unknown. Recently, theft of laptop computers has increased, especially at Schiphol Airport and major train stations. The thieves operate in small groups that target travelers, are determined and well practiced at distraction theft. Several official travelers have been victimized lately, losing personal and unclassified government computers, valuable software and data. Travelers are reminded regulations require the use of the diplomatic pouch for shipment of classified equipment and information.

-- (U) Streets can be walked in relative safety, but as in any U.S. urban area, caution should be exercised after dark in the more populated cities of The Hague, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam. Red-light districts and public transportation hubs are common locations for incidents of crime.

17. (SBU) Rate of Exchange on October 23, 2003: \$1 = Euro
0.847
SOBEL